United Nations S/2000/614

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 June 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 20 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 19 June 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 9 to 16 June 2000 they carried out 196 sorties, 62 of them from Saudi Arabia, 34 from Kuwait and 100 from Turkey. He goes on to call for your intervention with a view to halting such aggression, and he affirms Iraq's inalienable right to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for the damage done by this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-49402 (E) 230600 230600

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 196 sorties in the period from 9 to 16 June 2000, 62 of them from Saudi Arabia, 34 from Kuwait and 100 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 100 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1045 hours on 9 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1315 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1030 hours on 12 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Sinjar and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1020 hours on 13 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Sinjar and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1015 hours on 14 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Mosul, Zakho and Irbil areas. They attacked a civilian installation in the Saddam dam area, wounding two civilian residents. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1315 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1030 hours on 15 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Zakho, Rawanduz, Tall Afar, Sinjar and Irbil areas. They released four heat flares in the Fayidah area.

Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 96 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0950 hours on 9 June 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Diwaniyah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1000 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0735 hours on 14 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah, Amarah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0840 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0955 hours on 15 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Shinafiyah, Qal`at Sukkar, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Basrah, Salman, Ukhaydir, Nukhayb, Hashimiyah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0935 hours on 16 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Kut, Hayy, Shaykh Sa`d and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of wanton aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to end their aggression and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq